Cooktown
28. 3. 99.

My dear Spencer,

Our letters must have crossed! Yes, I was beginning to think that it was a jolly long time since I had heard from you, but this is quite explicable when you tell me that you have paid a visit to the dear old country.

How I envy you!

With regard to the Oxford vacancy, I can well understand your preferring Melbourne — without a doubt there is far more intellectual freedom and scope for good scientific work out there. I do trust that dear old Bourne will get it — there is none of that "teach your grand mother to suck eggs" style about...
just completed the grammar of
the Cooktown language (on identical
line, in the Balma District one),
and this time have written it
all with the proper spelling—
that authorized by the R. Geographi-
cal Society.
Now this is strictly private, and
I would like your advice. I want
ready to come down to Melbourne
for the Anoc meeting, but official
tape might stop me (in refusing
leave of absence for that purpose).
The only certainty I would have
would be to represent come as
representative of the Queensland
Government—but how is this to
be worked? Would it be possible
for you to apply officially for my
presence?
Always sincerely yours
Walter B. Roth.
If Bourne should get Oxford, please
let me know, as I should like to
congratulate him.